

From the Pastor's Desk

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." — 1 Corinthians 3:6

Dear Wesley Family,

As September begins, I find myself pausing with a grateful heart. This month marks the beginning of my **second year in ministry with you at Wesley United Methodist Church**. It is hard to believe how quickly this first year has passed. When I look back, I see not simply a year filled with activities and events, but a year filled with **God's grace, God's faithfulness, and God's people walking together**.



The words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:6 speak deeply to me: *"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth."* Ministry is never the work of one person. A pastor may plant a seed, another person may water it, someone else may nurture it, and another may harvest the fruit, but **God is the One who gives the growth**.

During this past year, we have planted and watered together.

We have worshiped together and welcomed new faces into our sanctuary. We celebrated baptisms, new members, birthdays, graduations, and special milestones. I am especially grateful for the **presence and involvement of our children in worship**. They have shared prayers, readings, music, and other parts of our worship. Their voices, energy, smiles, and willingness to serve remind us that **the church belongs to every generation**. When our children participate, they are not simply watching worship, they are learning that they, too, have a place and a ministry in the family of God. We have shared Communion and remember that God's table is open to all. We have also walked through difficult seasons of grief as we said goodbye to beloved members and friends of our church family.

We have continued to reach beyond our walls through the **Carty Cupboard Food Pantry, community breakfasts and dinners, and other ministries of compassion and hospitality**. Our various groups and fellowships, the Ghanaian Association and Choir, United Women in Faith, Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Sunday School, and many others continue to bring their gifts, cultures, voices, and hearts into the life of Wesley.

I am especially grateful for those who quietly serve week after week: liturgists, ushers, musicians, worship tech, Sunday School teachers, hospitality volunteers, transporters, committee members, lay leaders, office and building staff, those who prepare food, those who visit and pray with others, and those who simply notice when someone needs a listening ear or a helping hand.

This year has also reminded me that **being the church is not only about what happens on Sunday morning**. It is about how we listen to one another, how we care for one another, how we welcome our neighbors, how we serve our community, and how we make Wesley a place where people can experience the love of Christ.

As we enter this second year together, I do not want us simply to ask, *“What have we accomplished?”* I hope we will also ask, **“Where is God leading us next?”**

There is still work to do. There are people in our community who are hungry, lonely, grieving, searching, and hoping for a place where they can belong. There are gifts among us that have not yet been discovered. There are ministries waiting to be strengthened, new leaders waiting to be encouraged, and new possibilities waiting to emerge.

So, as we begin this new chapter, let us continue to **plant, water, nurture, and serve faithfully**, trusting God with the growth.

Thank you for welcoming me into your lives and into the life of this congregation. Thank you for your prayers, your patience, your encouragement, your honesty, your laughter, your service, and your love. In this first year, I have come to know Wesley not simply as the church where I serve, but as a community of people with whom I am privileged to walk.

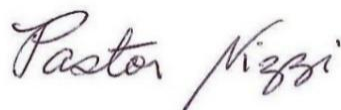
We do not know everything the second year will bring. But we know the One who goes before us.

May God continue to shape us into a church where **faith grows, hearts are healed, people are welcomed, and Christ’s love is shared beyond our walls**.

As we enter our second year together, may we continue to create a church where **every generation can plant, water, serve, grow, and discover** the gifts God has given them.

The seed has been planted. The soil has been watered.
And we trust God to give the growth.

With gratitude and hope,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Mizzi". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

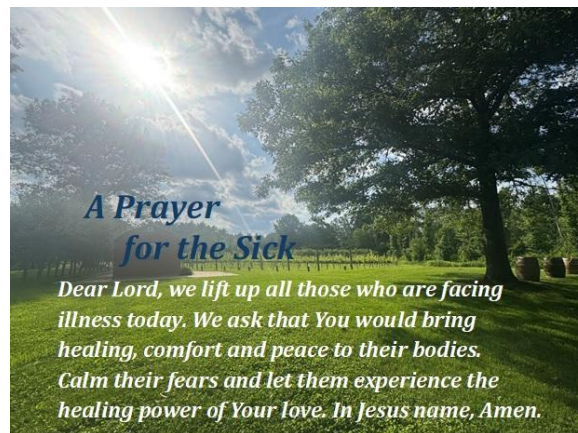
Special Prayers for Our Wesley Family and Friends

Sandra O'Driscoll in Lutheran Home for Rehab, Allison Hansen, Gail Royal (friend of Linda Dylewicz), Charles Simpson, Dorothy Drajesk (Brent's mother), Kendra, the Entire church, Earl Flagg, Melanie Rohr (Bill Robbins), Ermine (Yvette Walters), Yvonne Cotton (loss of her sister), Cousin Al, who is in a coma, Alice Douglas, Raye Bragg, Dr. Angel Lake (in St. Croix), Richard (Allison Hansen's brother), Steven Zoldak, Janet Terzian, Rosmond Caine (Cordelia's sister), Allison Whisner, Stacey Nichols-Byll and her daughter Mali, Shawanna, Justin Bacon, Xuan Diep, Bishop Tom Bickerton, DS Megan Stowe, Pastor Nizzi, Linda Keister, Shea Pugh, Page, David Patrick, Francis Mosso, Troy & Cathy Potts, Melissa Houlihan, Robert Craft, Libby T., Peter Woodcock, World Peace, Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

Linda and Louie D'Acri, as they celebrate their 57th Anniversary. May you be blessed to celebrate many more.

Remember Our Homebound

Marilyn Baptist, Janice Capen, Joseph Boateng, Pinamang Boateng, Stephen Boyns, Anne Burrows, Janet DeNapoli, Dot Ellis, Barbara Fletcher, Karen Garrett, Beverly Grimshaw, Rosamond Hammond, Charles Kiefer, Betty Paulwan, Elaine Peterson, Deborah and George Plant, Donald Tremblay, Barbara Vietze, Marion and Jerry Warren, Grace Woode



If you have a prayer request, please complete a card in the pew and place it in the collection plate, or you can email the church office (office@wesleyworc.org).

For pastoral emergency, contact Pastor Nizzi directly at 617 480 2955 (cell), so she can respond in a timely manner.

Worship Attendance: Aug 9 – 106 Aug 16 – 109 Aug 23 – 136 Aug 30 - 133

Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Rose window in October is given in loving memory of John Hansen by his family.

The Tower lighting in October is given in honor and celebration of my sister, Buelah's birthday on October 6th by Nizzi Digan.

Keeping You Connected!

2027 Offering Envelopes... It's that time of year again where I need to know who would like offering envelopes for 2027. If you would like them, please complete the yellow slip in the bulletin this week and place it in the offering plate or place it in the box in the Welcome office. If you are not able to come to church, please email me to let me know you'd like them. Thank you, Debi

October Herald will be in the October 4th bulletin. Please email your article to Debi no later than no later than Monday, September 28th. Thank you. (email: office@wesleyworc.org)

Children's Mini-Harvest & Kofi & Ama Results will be announced as soon as we have the numbers.

2026 Harvest giving to date is \$7, 031.00. Thank you to everyone who has given during the mini-harvests.

UWF Mission Recognition 2026

Presented Sunday, May 31, 2026

Traditionally Wesley United Women in Faith has recognized a woman who has exhibited FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE in action, serving and advocating for women, children, and youth here and around the world.

We ask the congregation to submit nominations.

There are so many deserving nominees that it is difficult to choose only one woman to honor.

Now a bit about this year's recipient:

You may not know that she visits Wesley members after church; they may be homebound due to frailty, illness, or hospitalization. Comforting and visiting others is her wonderful God-given Gift and Blessing.

"Sefless" is another word that describes her.

She serves on the Hospitality Team with Linda D'Acri and often volunteers with our monthly Community Suppers to serve the needs of our neighbors in the Wesley community and provide fellowship with Wesley members.

You can regularly see her behind the counter in Brewer Hall during Coffee Hour serving pastries, coffee, juice, and home baked goods. (By the way, she makes delicious cornbread and spring rolls too!)

She is the mother of three.

She grew up in Osu Accra, Ghana, and joined Wesley in 2005.

We are pleased to present the 2026 Mission Recognition Award to VIVIAN ASSIE.



Hello Wesley UMC family!

My name is Eun Hee Park, and I am delighted and honored to join Wesley United Methodist Church as your new organist. It is a joy to meet you and to become part of this wonderful community.

Church music has been an important part of my life and ministry for many years. Before coming to this area, I served for five years as Music Director and Organist at Shelburne United Methodist Church in Vermont, and previously served churches in Maine and New Jersey. I have also had the privilege of serving as an organist at Boston University School of Theology, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, and Kirkpatrick Chapel at Rutgers University. In addition to my work in the church, I am active as a musician and collaborative pianist and have had opportunities to perform and teach throughout New England, New York, and New Jersey.

I currently work at the University of Vermont and am pursuing a doctoral degree in organ performance at Boston University. I also hold a Bachelor's degree in Organ with a concentration in Church Music from Seoul Theological University in South Korea and a Master of Sacred Music degree from Boston University, where I studied organ with Professor Peter Sykes.

For me, music is more than simply a part of worship—it is a way of expressing our faith, bringing people together, and creating a space where we can encounter God. I look forward to sharing in the musical life of Wesley UMC and to learning and growing together with the congregation.

My husband, Taeseob Cho, is an Elder in the New England Conference of The United Methodist Church. After serving churches in Maine and Vermont, he was appointed this summer as the pastor of the First United Methodist Churches in Hudson and Marlborough, which brought our family to this area.

We have two children, Yoon and Ellen. Yoon is 11 and in sixth grade, while Ellen is 10 and in fifth grade. We are very grateful for this new chapter in our lives and feel especially blessed to be joining the Wesley UMC family.

I look forward to getting to know each of you, worshiping together, and sharing the joy of music and ministry. Please feel free to introduce yourself and say hello. I would love to meet you!

It is a great joy to be here, and I look forward to all that God will do through our life and ministry together.

*Warmly,
Eun Hee Park*



God Moment

If you could share a story of seeing God's work in your life, please tell me or email it to me. The story can be anonymous or signed, and all are invited to participate. Betsy (betspenn35@hotmail.com)



God Moment: “It Was Not Time Yet”

By Sandy McManus

When I was about four and a half years old, I was on vacation with my mother and my sister, Paula. My dad would come down on the weekends, but during the week, it was just my mom, my sister, and me.

I was learning to go underwater at the beach. I would hold my nose with my fingers, dunk my head under the water, come back up, and proudly celebrate my success. Then I would run up to the beach and excitedly tell my mom, “Mommy, Mommy! I dunked my head!” I did this again.

I must have done it nearly forty times. Then, one time, as I came up to take a breath, a big wave came over my head. I didn’t realize what had happened, and I inhaled the water. I dropped down onto the ocean floor, right there near the beach.

I remember floating back and forth and looking down at the sand. Then something very strange happened. In my mind, I began to see my life passing before my eyes, almost like a little View-Master, with one picture clicking into another.

I saw my grandfather, Sandy Naylor, throwing me up in the air and catching me. I could see him clearly, even the suspenders he was wearing.

Then another picture appeared. I saw my mother coming home from the hospital in 1959 Buick. I remember leaning over the seat and being so happy to see my new baby sister, Paula. There were no car seats in those days!

These memories kept coming, one after another. Then, at some point, I felt as though someone held me and picked me up. I heard the voice of my grandmother, Anna, my mother’s mother. She was Italian and spoke English with a strong accent. I heard her say to me, “San-da-ra, it is not time for you yet.”

Suddenly, I landed on the beach. I began coughing and coughing as I tried to get the water out of my lungs. I was frightened, but I was alive.

As I look back on that experience, I believe God was present with me even at four and a half years old. Somehow, I knew that it was not yet time for me to leave this earth.

God still had a plan and a purpose for my life.

Today, I am Michael’s wife, a mother of three sons, and a grandmother of six. I am deeply grateful for the years God has given me and for the opportunities to serve others.

DID YOU KNOW?

The high regard for the role of the organ in the worship of our congregation is a continuous thread in the history of our congregation. A. Leslie Jacobs, Wesley's first Minister of Music, came to Worcester in 1926 before the building of the church was completed to help select the specifications for the E. M. Skinner organ that was to be built in the sanctuary. Almost a century later when we undertook an extensive congregational music survey in 2023 the organ was second only to congregational singing of hymns in being considered by respondents as essential to our musical offerings in worship.

Since our church thus has had a large pipe organ that was in place before the dedication of the church, we probably tend to take it for granted that the organ plays such a prominent role in our worship services but as we now welcome a new organist to the bench you might be wondering how the organ came to be one of the main musical instruments used in churches. Believe it or not, in ancient times the early predecessors of the organ as we know it now were very much associated not with worship, but with secular entertainment such as theater. Because of these associations, the writings of the early church contain objections to the use of the organ (and other musical instruments) in worship.

It is unclear when the organ first began to be used in Christian rituals. It is known that there were organs in churches in Europe as early as the 8th C, but it is uncertain if they were used in any way that was connected to liturgy. (One speculation is that they may have been used to teach music.) By the 10th C there are records of organs (and bells) being used at least for special occasions by monastic communities. By that time there were also written descriptions of large loud organs located in churches throughout most of Western Europe. It is not until the 12th C, however, that the organ clearly was serving a defined liturgical function; by the 15th C its use in worship was widely accepted.

In the Roman Catholic tradition, the organ assumed a very central role in the celebration of the mass, with the playing of organ pieces called versets, based on chant, often substituting for or alternating with the singing of the chant. In a similar way, after the Reformation, in the Protestant Lutheran tradition the organ was used in alternation with the choir and congregation in the singing of hymns, and by the early 17th C eventually came to actually accompany the singing. The Calvinists, on the other hand, removed organs from their churches thinking that the use of the organ prevented the active participation of the congregation in worship. Similarly, the Puritans in England destroyed organs during the English civil war, but this trend was reversed during the Restoration era. Finally, the "Modern Revival" of the organ which began with the Romanticists of the mid-19th C, led to the widespread acceptance of the organ as a means to support the large group singing that is an essential part of Christian worship.

In addition to hymns, the vast musical literature for the organ written over the centuries is filled with pieces written for use in Christian worship. Often these pieces are based on hymn tunes, liturgical chant, and/or inspired by scripture texts. Of course, even pieces not written with a specific liturgical theme can add to our worship as sources for inspiration, reflection and meditation as well as expressions of God's gift of creativity.

Submitted by,
Deborah A. O'Driscoll

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Organist	Eun Hee Park	Carty Cupboard Food Pantry	Chris Flagg
Chancel Choir Director			Linda D'Acri
Ghanaian Choir Director	Desmond Cheetham	Education Committee Co-Chairs	Joseph Fletcher
Director of Children's Ministries	Rhianna Burke	Youth Bible Study	Ivy Hammond
Church Business Administrator	Matt Crane	Finance & Stewardship Co-Chairs	Joseph Fletcher
Church Secretary	Debi Reynolds	Financial Secretary	William Wong
Building Superintendent	Phil Johnson	Church Auditor	Peter Hansen
Custodians	April Dylewicz	Ghanaian Association	Earl Flagg
	Gerard Piscitelli	Hospitality Chair	Cynthia Fletcher
Head Usher	David Dagle	Medical Ministry	Paul Hayfron
Communion Steward	Linda D'Acri	Mission Coordinators	Linda D'Acri
	Quinn Caddell		Vivian Assie
	Sharon Walters		Ron Ramsay
Wesley Tech Team	Mark Muncey	Staff-Parish Relations Co-Chairs	Maria Gorsuch-Kennedy
Sunday Security	Adam Flagg		Donna Hirtle
Church Council Chair	Brent Drajesk	United Women in Faith Co-Chairs	Chris Flagg
Co-Lay Leaders	Gifty Bentum-Asante		Janet Amoako
	Joseph Fletcher		Barbara Ingrassia,
Lay Spiritual Director, Music Committee Chair,			Sandra McManus, Cordelia Ferdinand
and Worship Committee Chair	Debbie O'Driscoll	Wesley UMC Prayer Circle	Led by Pastor Nizzi & Cordelia Ferdinand